



Date:

# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arizona Department of Public Safety**

#### **Enforcement Activity**

#### **Drug Seizures and Immigration Enforcement Activity**

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) will conduct a press conference today to advise of the below listed enforcement activities. DPS Director Roger Vanderpool, will be in attendance to discuss the current and future enforcement initiatives of the department.

**Time:** 1600 hours

**Location:** DPS Headquarters Building - 2102 West Encanto Boulevard (south side Visitor Parking Lot in front of the Statute)

On Thursday, February 22, 2007, around 1635 hours, a traffic stop was conducted by a DPS Canine Handler, with the K-9 "L.C.," on Interstate 40 near Milepost 133, near the town of Seligman. The vehicle, a 1990 pick-up truck was stopped for a violation of following too close. During the traffic stop, the DPS Canine Handler observed indicators of illegal activity from the three occupants. The indicators included different stories, unusual travel plans and extreme nervousness. The K-9 "L.C." was deployed, who alerted to the vehicle, where 4.25 pounds of Heroin with a street value of approximately \$75,000, and 1.85 pounds of Cocaine with a street value of approximately \$13,000 was located within the vehicle. The three occupants; Juan Cervantes, age 36, Gonzalo Hernandez, age 26, and Angel Olguin, age 25, were arrested for Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Transportation and Sale of Dangerous Drugs and booked into the Coconino County Detention Center. The seized drugs and "L.C." will be available for video/photos. The K-9 "L.C." is named under a program to memorialize the department's fallen Officers and in memory of Highway Patrol Officer Louis Cochran, Badge 45, who was killed in the line of duty on December 22, 1958.

On Friday, February 23, 2007, Officers from the Gang Immigration and Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (G.I.I.T.E.M) Arizona Border Strike Force, conducted a "Full Court Press" operation in Santa Cruz County. "Full Court Press" is a project that was developed under the direction of the Governor of Arizona Janet Napolitano and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, to suppress, disrupt, infiltrate and dismantle criminal organizations involved in gang related activities, illegal immigrant smuggling organizations, narcotic smuggling organizations and stolen vehicle smuggling organizations (outbound to Mexico). The G.I.I.T.E.M. units were assisted by Officers from DPS Highway Patrol Division, Nogales Police Department, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office and the Santa Cruz County Narcotics Task Force (METRO). The following results were obtained from this operation:

GMIC Cards	1
Undocumented Aliens detained and turned over to federal authorities	17
Arrests-Narcotics and Paraphernalia	1
Arrests-Felony Charges	4
Arrests-Misdemeanor Charges	5
Community Contacts	183
Field Interviews	31
Traffic Stops Conducted	98
Traffic Citations Issued	14
Traffic Warnings/Equipment Repair Orders Issued	14
Canine Searches	1

On Sunday, February 25, 2007, around 1300 hours, DPS Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau Officers conducted a traffic stop on a commercial tractor-trailer unit on Interstate 17 northbound, near the Camp Verde Junction. As a result of the traffic stop to conduct a commercial vehicle safety inspection, Officers observed indicators of illegal activity being displayed by the occupants and decided to search the vehicle. A search of the vehicle uncovered approximately 943 pounds of Marijuana, with a street value of approximately \$520,000, packaged in plastic wrapped bales. The two occupants, Anthony Maricinek, age 43 and Luis F. Rios, age 32, were arrested for Possession of Marijuana, Possession for Transportation and Sale and booked into the Yavapai County Detention Center. Photos of the suspects can be provided to media representatives.

On Monday, February 26, 2007, around 0800 hours, DPS Officers conducted a traffic stop on a commercial tractor-trailer unit for a violation of unsafe lane usage, on Interstate 17, just north of Happy Valley Road. The Officers observed indicators of illegal activity being displayed by the three occupants. A consent search was obtained and as a result, approximately 500 pounds of Marijuana with a street value of approximately \$275,000, packaged in plastic wrapped bales, were located within the trailer unit. The occupants David T. Gonzales, age 41, Arturo Gayuna Castillo, age 42 and Roland Anthony Vela, age 20, all showing residency in the State of Texas, were arrested for Possession of Marijuana and Possession for Transportation and Sale and booked into the Maricopa County Detention Center. The commercial tractor-trailer and seized Marijuana will be available at the press conference.

**Please note:** The seized items and agency personnel will be available from 1600-1700 hours only.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in Arizona, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring highway and public safety and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 30 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.